

Appl. No. : 09/817,535
Filed : March 26, 2001

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (previously amended) A computer-assisted method of facilitating a transfer of purchases to consumers, the method comprising:
 - on a computer system, for each of a plurality of consumers, associating a plurality of items ordered by the consumer from a plurality of merchants;
 - for each consumer, receiving the associated items at a single geographic location;
 - for each consumer, based at least on the association of the items on the computer system, physically aggregating the items at the location; and
 - for each consumer, transferring the aggregated items to the consumer.
2. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein each of the purchased items is a product or comprises one or more products.
3. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising
 - on the computer system, for each consumer, receiving notification of a pending delivery of at least one of the items to the location.
4. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising
 - using the computer system, for each consumer, notifying the consumer that some or all of the plurality of items have been received at the location.
5. (canceled)
6. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein transferring the aggregated items to the consumer comprises sending the items to the consumer from the location.
7. (presently amended) A computer-assisted method of facilitating the transfer of products to consumers, the method comprising:
 - on a computer system, identifying a plurality of consumers and for each consumer:
 - for each of a plurality of merchants, identifying as a set of at least one item purchased by the consumer from the merchant;
 - presenting to the consumer a set of at least one predetermined geographic locations from which set the consumer is prompted to make a selection;
 - receiving from the consumer a selection of a single geographic location from the set; and

Appl. No. : 09/817,535
Filed : March 26, 2001

~~for instructing each of the merchants, providing to the merchant~~
~~instructions to send the at least one item to the selected geographic location~~
~~selected by the consumer;~~

at the geographic location selected by the consumer, receiving the set of at
least one item sent by each of the merchants;

at the geographic location, aggregating the items sent by each of the
merchants; and

transferring the aggregated items to the consumer.

8. (previously amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein each of the purchased items is a product or comprises one or more products.

9. (presently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the selected geographic location is an order aggregation site.

10. (previously amended) The method of Claim 9, further comprising
providing an identification of the items to the order aggregation site.

11. (previously amended) The method of Claim 9, further comprising
instructing the order aggregation site to aggregate the items.

12. (original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising
instructing the order aggregation site to transfer the aggregated items to the consumer.

13. (original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising
instructing the order aggregation site to deliver the aggregated items to the consumer.

14. (original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising
instructing a delivery service to pick up the aggregated items at the order aggregation site and to deliver the aggregated items to the consumer.

15. (canceled)

16. (presently amended) The method of Claim 7, further comprising
instructing the consumer to receive the items at the selected geographic location.

17. (original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising
receiving from the consumer, an identification of a time at which the consumer will expect to receive the items.

Appl. No. : 09/817,535
Filed : March 26, 2001

18. (presently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising, for each consumer:
presenting to the consumer at least one geographic location at which the consumer
can receive the items;

obtaining from the consumer a selection of one of the geographic locations; and
notifying the merchants of the identity of the geographic location selected by the
consumer.

19. (presently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the geographic location
comprises:

a set of temporary bulk storage facilities that provide a selection of appropriate
environments to temporarily store products;

an order aggregation facility where products picked from the temporary bulk
storage facilities can be physically aggregated;

loading and unloading docks for trucks to deliver and pick up shipments;

a recipient vehicle loading and unloading facility for transferring items to
consumers;

a communications system configured to electronically communicate with
merchants and consumers; and

a computing system configured to coordinate transfers of items from merchants to
consumers.